

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 00794 291825Z

60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

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R 291640Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7208

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PLOS, GR

SUBJECT: PAPANDREOU ATTEMPTS RAISE AEGEAN ISSUE IN
PARLIAMENT

1. IN IMPROPER PROCEDURAL MANEUVER, PASOK LEADER PAPANDREOU ATTEMPTED INITIATE DISCUSSION OF AEGEAN ISSUE IN PARLIAMENT EVENING JANURY 28 WITH PM CARAMANLIS, WHO UNEXPECTEDLY PRESENT. PRIME MINISTER POINTED OUT INAPPROPRIATENESS PAPANDREOU ACTION (HE TOOK FLOOR BEFORE ADOPTION DAILY ORDER OF BUSINESS) AND THT IT NOT TIMELY TO HOLD SUCH DISCUSSION. CARAMANLIS SAID THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT AVOID SUCH A DISCUSSION AND WILL HOLD IT ON ITS OWN INITIATIVE WHEN NATIONAL INTERESTS WOULD NOT BE JEOPARDIZED.

2. PAPANDREOU'S COMMENTS FOCUSED ON POSSIBILITY THAT PM'S INITIATIVE IN REFERRING AEGEAN DISPUTE TO INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE (ICJ) COULD RESULT IN "GRANTING OF RIGHTS TO THOSE TO WHO SUCH RIGHTS DO NOT BELONG." PASOK CHIEFTAIN ALSO EXPRESSED POINION THAT UNDER 1958 CONTINENTAL SHELF CONVENTION, "DIFFERENCE" SUCH AS EXISTS
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 00794 291825Z

BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY ON AEGEAN IS NOT ADJUDICABLE BY

COURT. PAPANDREOU ALSO ASKED PM TO ENLIGHTEN PUBLIC AND PARLIAMENT ON US AND USSR VIEWS ON AEGEAN ISSUE.

3. WHEN PM CRITICIZED PASOK LEADER FOR ATTEMPTING TO EMBARRASS GOVERNMENT BY ASKING QUESTIONS ON MATTERS GOVERNMENT NOT AT LIBERTY TO DISCUSS, PAPANDREOU DISCLAIMED ANY INTENTION TO DEMAND IMMEDIATE RESPONSE.

4. PRESS HAS GENERALLY CONTINUED SUPPORT PM INITIATIVE IN REFERRING AEGEAN ISSUE TO ICJ WITH EXCEPTION ELLINIKON MELLON (ROYALIST). ON JANUARY 29 MELLON ARGUES THAT PM HAD COMMITTED "GAFFE" IN PROVIDING TURKS WITH TOOL WHICH THEY COULD USE TO PROMOTE CLAIM WHICH HAD NO LEGITIMATE BASIS. TO SIGNIFICANT DEGREE PAPER ECHOED POINTS MADE BY PAPANDREOU PREVIOUS EVENING.

5. AN INTERESTING SIDE-PLAY CUF/NF ISSUED STATEMENT EVENING JANUARY 28 WHICH REAFFIRMED PARTY APPROVAL OF CARAMANLIS INITIATIVE BUT WHICH NEVERTHELESS ASSOCIATED ITSELF WITH PAPANDREOU IN SEEKING GOVERNMENT "ENLIGHTENMENT" ON ITS POSITION WITH RESPECT TO CYPRUS AND AEGEAN ISSUES.
KUBISCH

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